

Dear Chairman and members of the Joint Housing Committee. My name is Susan Sia and I've lived in Bethel for 9 years. It is in the interest of public health and safety that any bill coming out of the Housing Committee this year regarding State law 8(30)g or any other housing bill be amended to include language that exempts watershed towns which more than seventy per cent of the land is within a watershed protection area be exempt from the 8-30g appeals process.

Protect our water and wells

ACT NOW.

About 26% of Bethel's total land area, approximately 2,837 acres in the southern part of the municipality, is designated by Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as existing or potential water supply watershed land. Just 1 of the municipal wells in Bethel provides almost a million gallons of drinking water EACH DAY.

Redding is 89.5% watershed.

Easton is 90% watershed and provides approximately 700,000 customers of Fairfield County including Bridgeport with water, providing 19% of the state's water supply.

Ridgefield contributes significant water to New York City:

The Titicus River is an 8.5-mile-long (13.7 km) river in southwestern Connecticut and southeastern New York that drains into the Titicus Reservoir, part of New York City's water supply system. Part of both the Croton River watershed and the system's Croton Watershed, has a 23.8 square miles (62 km²) drainage area.[1] It is one of the few rivers with headwaters in Connecticut that is part of the system. The source of the river is in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

High density development in ANY of these or similar watersheds can compromise our potable water and wells.

Protect our most precious NATURAL RESOURCE WATER. Exempt watershed towns from 8-30g appeals process.

Water safety first

Thank you

Sincerely,

Susan Sia